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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 00461 081049Z

21
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EUR-12 DODE-00 NRC-05 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 GSA-01 INT-05 /063 W
---------- 015604
R 081032Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
SECSTATE WASHDC 6530
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EMIN, TH
SUBJ: TIN: INQUIRY INTO "BURMESE" EXPORTS

REF: A) 75 LONDON 19131 B) 75 LONDON 18959

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. "NATION" AAN 8 CARRIED REPORT, SOURCED TO AFP, THAT MINERAL ANALYSIS OF BURMESE TIN CONCENTRATES IS BEING CARRIED

OUT BY INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL AND TIN RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF LONDON IN EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHETHER INCREASED EXPORTS ASCRIBED TO BURMA MAY IN FACT ORIGINATE IN NORTHERN PROVINCES OF THAILAND.

2. "NATION" QUOTED UNNAMED MINERS AS SAYING INCREASED "BURMESE EXPORTS MAY FLOW IN PART FROM THAILAND'S SOUTHERN PROVINCES WHERE OFF-SHORE MINING WITHOUT PRIOR RTG APPROVAL (SO-CALLED ILLEGAL MINING) IS ON THE INCREASE. REPORT ADDED THAT TIN CONCENTRATES SMUGGLED BY "ILLEGAL MINERS" FROM BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH THAILAND UNDER FORGEE MANIFESTS,
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 00461 081049Z

PURPORTEDLY ISSUED IN BURMA, HAVE RESULTED IN SHUTDOWN OF

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SEVERAL TIN MINES IN MALAYSIA RECENTLY AND HVE CONTRIBUTED TO PRICE DECLINE ON WORLD MARKET.

3. ON JAN 1, "POST" REPORTED THAT MINERAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HAS FIXED TIN EXPORT TARGET OF 18,000 TONS FOR 1976. THIS WOULD BE ALMOST 10 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 16,629 TONS EXPORTED LAST YEAR BUT STILL WELL BELOW THE 19,467 TONS EXPORTED IN 1974. ITC HAS AWARDED THAILAND A QUOTA OF 4,016 TTNS FOR FIRST QUARTER OF 1976. END UN-CLASSIFIED

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4. WE HAVE FROM TINE TO TIME HEARD RUMORS ABOUT HE SMUGGLING OF TIN CONCENTRATES FROM THAILAND TO PENANG, INCLUDING THE ALLEGATION THAT ORES AND/OR CONCENTRATES MOVE BY THE CARLOAD OVER THE STATE RAILWAY LINE, UNDER FORGED SHIPPING DOCUMENTS, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING FIRM ON THESE ALLEGED MOVEMENTS. WE WILL DO AN ANALYSIS OF EXPORT DATA, AND TALK WITH PEOPLE IN THE TRADE, IN EFFORT TO CONFIRM OR SHOOT DOWN THESE RUMORS. WHITEHOUSE

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